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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05
INR-10 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN DWELTER, LA/CEN:RLEONDE VIVERO, RGARUFI
APPROVED BY WARREN CHRISTOPHER
AA/LA:EWCOY
RA/CEN:WMATTHEWS S/S:JETHYDEN
LA/EMS:GPAGANO (INFO)
A/DR:MBROWN (INFO)
AAALA: AVALDEZ
RA/LA:SASHELTON(INFO)
APA/JBUSHNESS
A/DP:ECULBERTSON (INFO)
----------041222 241723Z /47
O 241712Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104031

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ACTING A/S:JBUSHNELL & AA/AVALDEZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: MANAGUA 1409

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED YOUR MESSAGE ON TUNING OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN NICARAGUA AND DELAYED RESPONDING SO THAT WE COULD DISCUSS YOUR VIEWS WITH BARRY SIDMAN. AS YOU KNOW, WE SUPPORT THE DESIRABILITY OF LOWERING THE PROFILE OF THE U.S. IMAGE IN NICARAGUA.
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AID'S AGREEMENT TO ACCELERATE ITS ROLE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM STEMMED FROM THAT AIM WHICH BARRY SIDMAN FULLY UNDERSTANDS. AID HAS ASKED HIM TO ENSURE THAT THE RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED EXPEDITIOUSLY PRIOR TO JULY 1979. ON STAFF LEVELS, AID HAD PREVIOUSLY INSTRUCTED THAT THE MISSION BE REDUCED, AND ACCORDINGLY DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS THE STAFF WILL BE REDUCED

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BY SEVEN. FURTHERMORE, AID HAS TASKED MR. SIDMAN WITH
REEVALUATING STAFF REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDING FURTHER
REDUCTIONS. UNTIL HE HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE
THE EVALUATION, AID IS RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO ANY SET FIGURE,
ALTHOUGH A STAFF LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY 20 APPEARS
REASONABLE.

2. WE CONCUR IN PRINCIPLE WITH YOUR SUGGESTED FINANCIAL
LEVELS. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US A TREND OVER SEVERAL
YEARS IS A MORE MEANINGFUL MEASURE OF LEVELS RATHER
THAN FOCUSING ON A SPECIFIC FISCAL YEAR. IN THE CURRENT
ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND POSSIBLY THE NEXT
NEW PROJECTS SHOULD SUPPORT A COMBINATION OF CONTINUING
THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND POSSIBLY
INCREASING INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH
PVOS.

3. REGARDING THE EDUCATION LOAN, WE NOTE YOUR DESCRIP-
TION OF THE CURRENT POLITICIZED SITUATION AT THE MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND THAT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE
SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LOAN. UNFORTUNATELY,
WE BELIEVE YOUR SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES, I.E. INVIERNO AND
OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS,ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE.
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MUST ASSUME THE MAJOR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR FURNISHING EDUCATION IN NICARAGUA.
WHILE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS CAN MAKE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
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TO THE ENRICHMENT OF EDUCATION, I.E. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
IN SELF-HELP SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, IT IS OUR OPINION
THAT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE ABILITY TO FULFILL THE
INTENTIONS OF THE LOAN, OF REFORMING THE EDUCATION SECTOR,
AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS THE LOGICAL
ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BE INVOLVED. THEREFORE, WE
REQUEST AID REASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABILITY OF ACHIEVING
A.I.D. LOAN OBJECTIVES OVER THE LONG RUN THROUGH THE
MINISTRY AS AN INSTITUTION (REGARDLESS OF THE DEGREE OF
POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRESENT MINISTER).

4. UNLESS THAT REASSESSMENT DIVULGES TECHNICAL REASONS
WHY THE LOAN'S OBJECTIVES CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED OF WHICH
WE ARE PRESENTLY UNAWARE WE SEE TWO POSSIBILITIES:

A. PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT IN ITS CURRENT FORM.

B. SEPARATE THE GRANT PORTION WHICH PROVIDES TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM FROM
THE LOAN AND SIGN AND IMPLEMENT THE GRANT AND PROCEED
WITH THE LOAN AFTER DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS IN ,EFORM.

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5. OBVIOUSLY, WHATEVER ACTION A.I.D. TAKES WILL HAVE TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE WORLD BANK. A WORLD BANK EDUCATION TEAM ARRIVES IN MANAGUA APRIL 24.

6. SINCE THIS EDUCATION PROJECT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT, WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE NO LATER THAN APRIL 25. CHRISTOPHER

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Secure: OPEN
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To: MANAGUA
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